to these States from June, '93 onwards. Railways have also withdrawn ceiling limits for sponsoring movement of coal and State Govemments have been asked to sponsor the requirements of consumers freely for the year 1994.

IMPORT OF COAL BY GUJARAT ELECTRICITY BOARD

2320. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Gujarat Electricity Board has decided to import two million tonnes of Coal for power generation against the advice of Coal India Ltd. ;

(b) if so, the reasons given by the Board for such import;

(c) whether the import has been allowed by Government; and

(d) if not, what steps are being taken by Government to resolve the matter 7

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) *to* (d) Under the current export and import policy, coal can be freely imported and no permission licence is required for import of coal by thermal power stations.

Coal India Ltd. and the railways are in a position to meet full requirements of power stations in Gujarat. The coal demand of power houses of Gujarat Electricity Board as assessed by the Cetral Electricity Authority (CEA) vis-a-vis actual supplies during the last three years are given below :

(Data provisional)

Year	Demand (in 000 tonnes)	Actual supplies tonnes)	% materiali-sation
1990-91	7820	8401	107%
1991-92	9013	9272	103%
1992-93	10873	11071	102%
1993-94 . . . . . (upto Oct., 93)	6530	6600	101%

The above data indicates that the supplies have been more than the assessed demands. Due to improved coal despatches the thermal power generation in the State has gone up.

In view the significant improvement in production and despatches of indigenous coal, coal India Ltd. and Singareni Collie-ries Company Ltd. are confident of meeting the full coal requirements of power stations in the country including power stations in Gujarat.

LOW ASH COKING COAL FOR STEEL AND POWER PLANTS

2321. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that cotutry need low ash coking coal for Steel Plants and low ash non-coking coal for Power Plants;

(b) if so, what is the actual require-Iment per annm and how much could be supplied through our indigmous sources;
and

(c) what are the details of the Coal reserve claimed to be proved and how much of the total proved reserve is suitable for Steel Industry and how much of it is suitable for Power industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANIA) : (a) to (c) While steel plants require metallurgical coal of 17 + 0.50% ash content but *low* ash non-cokting coal is not essential for power plants as the power plant boilers can efficiently utilise coal with higer ash content. During' 1992-93 against coking coal requirement of integrated steel plants of SAIL and VSP of 16.36 million tonnes and the indigenous supplies were 11.04 million tonnes (provisional) of washed and direct feed coking coal. During this period the despatches to power sector were 149.24 million tonnes against their requirement of 150 million tonnes.

As on 1-1-1993, categorywise coal resources of India (upto a depth of 1200 metres), estimated by Geological survey of India, are given below :—

(In Million Tonnes)

Tppe of Coal	Proved	Indicated	Inferred	Total
Gondwana Coals . . .	64595.57	84766.60	43552.97	192915.14
Tertiary Coals . . .	231.03	146.50	458.46	861.99
Coking				
Prime Coking . . .	4227.81	1072.19	—	5300.00
Medium Coking . . .	9727.17	11257.69	979.22	21964.08
Blendable/Semi-coking . .	535.45	1077.60	483.55	2096.60
Sub-Total (Coking)* . . .	14490.43	13407.48	1462.77	29360.68
Non-Coking	50362.17	715p5.62	42548.66	164416.45
Total	64852.60	84913.10	44011.43	193777.13

*Does not include Tertiary coals of North Eastern Region

COKING COAL REQUIREMENTS STEEL INDUSTRY

2322. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that prior to nationalisation of coal industry, the country was self-sufficient in meeting the coking coal requirement of steel industry;

(b) whether it is also a fact that afler 20 years of nationalisation, and afer making huge investments, Government are not able to meet the requirement of steel industry;

(c) if so, what are the main reasons thereof; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to meet the) situaion in the next three years '/

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF GOAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) In the year 1971-72 when the coking coal mines were nationalised the hot metal production in the country was 6.60 million tonnes (m.t) and the requirement of coking coal for the same was 9.68 m.t. which was being comfortably met from the indigenous production. In 1992-93 the hot metal production in the country has increased to 15.20 m.t. requiring about 18.5 m.t. of washed coking coal. Since the increase in the indigenous production of washed coking coal of requisite metallurgical variety was not adequate to match the damand, about 6.70 m.t. (provisional) of low ash coking coal was imported in 1992-93 partly to meet the deficit in the demand and availability and partly to improve the quality of the overall blend. The major problems coming in the way